



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

Revised  
March 5, 1999

**H.R. 800**

**Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Education and the Workforce  
on March 3, 1999*

**SUMMARY**

H.R. 800 would implement a nationwide policy allowing the Department of Education to delegate to states a portion of its waiver-granting authority. Under this bill, state education agencies could decide whether particular school districts could waive requirements imposed by certain federal regulations. Currently, education flexibility waivers are available to 12 states for demonstration purposes.

CBO estimates that this bill would have no budgetary impact. H.R. 800 contains no private-sector or intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). Any costs to state and local governments resulting from enactment of the bill would be incurred voluntarily. Tribal governments would not be affected by the provisions of H.R. 800.

**BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

H.R. 800 would require that states meet two criteria in order to qualify for waivers. First, states and districts must have in place, or be making substantial progress toward, the standards and assessments described in Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Second, state education agencies must have the ability to modify their own regulatory or statutory requirements to make them consistent with the federal waivers they grant.

The bill would allow states to waive the requirements of seven education programs: titles I, IV, and VI of ESEA; part B of title II of ESEA; subpart 2 of part A of title III of ESEA; part C of title VII of ESEA; and the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act.

The waivers would neither affect the total amount of a state's federal grant nor the state's allocation among competing districts but could change the allocation received by the schools within a given district.

**PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 800 contains no private-sector or intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA. The bill would allow officials in all 50 states to participate in the education flexibility partnership. Twelve states now participate in the education flexibility demonstration program, which gives state officials the authority to temporarily free individual school districts from certain requirements under specified federal education grant programs. Participation in these programs would be voluntary, as would any associated costs. Tribal governments would not be affected by the provisions of this bill.

## **PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATES**

On March 4, 1999, CBO provided an estimate of this bill. The current estimate revises the earlier one, by deleting incorrect references to the Goals 2000 program and to any redistribution of funds among school districts. Neither estimate contains a budgetary impact.

On February 10, 1999, CBO estimated S. 280, the Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999. That bill had no budgetary impact.

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